GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:107
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2001
STATUS OF L.C.A.
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Light Combat Aircraft (L.C.A.) as well as induction of `Akash` and `Trishul` Missiles have been delayed inordinately;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the original and escalated cost of each of the projects, separately;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the views being expressed that the LCA will become outdated by the time it comes into operation;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(e) the stage at which each of the projects stands at present; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be inducted in the Army?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir. There have been some delays in induction of these high technology systems.

(b) The delays are attributable to lack of adequate infrastructure and expertise in the country, technological complexities and US Sanctions imposed in 1998. World over, such delays in development of high technology complex systems are not uncommon. The original and escalated cost of these systems are as under:

	Original Cost (sanctioned at 1982-83 price level) (Rs in crore)	Escalated Cost (Rs in crore)
LCA	560	2854
AKASH	95.34	282.83
TRISHUL	27.16	182.66

(c) & (d): LCA is an advanced technology state-of-the-art aircraft and its technology will be contemporary when inducted in the Air Force.

(e) & (f): LCA has entered Flight Test Programme and its Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) will be obtained by 2005 after which it will be ready for induction into the Air Force. The surface-to-air medium range missile `Akash` and surface-to-air short range missile `Trishul` are in advanced stage of guided flight tests. After user trials in 2002, these missiles will enter production and induction phase.